

Drainage update 27 April 2021

My ongoing negotiations with NELC/Engie reference course drainage. Winter/Spring work has now been completed.

1. The ditch that runs from the back of the 12th tee (where a culvert enters the course from Pershore Avenue) right up to the point where this ditch meets the one that runs off Capes Rec onto the course has been cleared. The ditch is now approx 2 metres deep for the entire length. Spoil has been taken out and heaped course side with our agreement. Much of the foliage that was obscuring the ditch and in many areas blocking it has been removed - as has mountains of garbage that has been thrown over from the various houses over the years. It is estimated that we have had @ £20/25K worth of work carried out at no cost to club.

Going forward this ditch will not be worked on again by NELC for at least 3/4 years - they may have some work to do at the back of the 12th tee as the culvert in that area has collapsed.

2. We have written agreement that NELC will attend and clear the ditch from the course boundary fence at Capes Rec through up to the point where this ditch enters the culvert under the 10th fairway. Again, this will be at their expense. This work will be done autumn 2021.

3. We have agreement that we will be provided with two drainage engineers who will come and survey our water courses that run across the course and they will advise us on what improvements we might consider aiding water to flow.

4. It is clear that we have significant issues with the culvert (concrete drainage tubes) that run the whole distance from the left of the 10th fairway right through to the ditch that opens up to the far right on the 1st (at the back of the green metal shed in the practice ground) - during flood conditions last winter the surface water has broken through the pipes in the ditches between 10/18 and 18/1 and have opened up in areas - it is impossible to repair these. The early advice from NELC when they were on site a month ago was that these two sections should be excavated, the pipe work removed, and the two sections left as open ditches - this would both aid flow and massively increase capacity. The areas under the fairways on 10/18/1 would remain piped. When you next play please look at the large washed-out hole in the ditch that is between 10/18

5. NELC will be carrying out camera surveys in the culverts that run under Great Coates Rd near St Michael's church, they will do the same to the culvert that runs from the small Freshney, under the large Freshney into the New Cut Drain near Swingtime. They will also check the weir that is (in our opinion) restricting flow near Swingtime. During Autumn 2021 they will also do a partial dredge/clearance of the small Freshney as again (in our view) this water course is badly silted and overgrown.

Overall a successful winter, albeit we still flooded during lockdown. I am hopeful that the survey will give us greater knowledge of where we can improve things. At the same time I will get more information on the culverts running across 10/18/1 and revert with suggestions (or not) on opening areas up.

Any questions please let me know.

Nick